

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and 14 are amended. Support for the amendment to the claims is found, for example, in Fig. 3 and at page 14, lines 4-12 of the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Egendorf (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0177111 A1) in view of Yanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,946,689). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Egendorf nor Yanaka, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests at least a status identifier that identifies whether the update or revised document or document set is at least waiting for approval, generation start, and already approved, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 8, 9, 13 and 14.

The Office Action at page 5 acknowledges that Egendorf does not disclose or suggest a status identifier. However, the Office Action asserts the Yanaka discloses the status identifier. Yanaka, in the Abstract and at columns 2-6 discloses the update status of the various database systems are identified. Nowhere does Yanaka disclose or suggest that the status identifier identifies whether the update or revised document or document set is at least waiting for approval, generation start, and already approved. Therefore, Yanaka does not disclose or suggest the above-noted feature of independent claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and 14.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and 14 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-5, 7 and 10-12 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

I. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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